

# FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



August 2017

## **Kristina about the German Class**

During our stay here a lot of people asked us to help them learn German. This triggered the idea of starting to teach a German class. We spread the information about our class in town and expected very few people to come. In the end more than twenty people came to our class. We were very surprised about this success. Now, after some months, we still have a group of about fifteen motivated people, who want to learn German because of very different reasons: some of them have German families or friends, some of them need it for their work (in the tourist sectors) and some of them just do it for fun or want to spend their free time in a meaningful way. We always start our classes with a presentation about culture in Germany. Amongst others we already spoke about food, the current political situation, the nature and landscape, as well as rules and regulations. After the presentation we continue with repetitions, new vocabulary, grammar, and games to practice. It's always a lot of fun and often the students ask for learning more than we prepared. The motivation of the students and the noticeable improvement of their German skills show us, that we started a very useful project. As Hanna and I are going to leave late August, we are very happy that we've found two motivated new volunteers who are willing to continue the class so that the project is to be continued.

## **German Red Cross: Interview & Farewell**

After 12 months the first group of the German Red Cross left Samaná and with that the foundation Aldeas de Paz. Time passed by so fast! In the last five weeks the volunteers, specifically the multi media team, worked on a special interview with this group. They talked about topics like traveling, Religion or typical Dominican dishes.

The interview is finally ready to be presented to the world and will be uploaded on YouTube soon. You are very welcome to watch it in order to be informed about our year abroad and the different experiences we have made. It's a great opportunity for everyone who is interested, to have an insight into the life here in Samaná. Moreover we hope to upload some reviews on the homepage [peacevillages.org](http://peacevillages.org). The volunteers will write reports about their very personal experiences and thoughts about Samaná and their voluntary service.



### **Kristina about the Computer Classes**

Already for the second time this year 12 students graduated in August our computer classes. At the same time it was the second time that volunteers organized the classes and taught on their own – and again it was very successful. This time we had one beginners and one advanced class. In the beginners class we taught the basics, such as the structure of a computer, how to use a keyboard, how to create documents, and how to use the internet.

In the advanced class we showed them how to find information in the internet in a faster way and we practiced again how to create documents and how to save them. But the main focus in the advanced class was on Microsoft Excel. Most of the students never heard about this program before and no one knew how to use it. After several weeks of intense practice they are now able to calculate and able to create spreadsheets and diagrams. It was a lot of work, but in the end a huge success.

We offer the computer classes with the purpose of helping people by teaching them how to use a computer so in the end they have an advantage in the job market. But that is not the only purpose. It is also cultural exchange. I can say that after so many months spending four hours a week together, seeing them learning and gaining new skills, knowing about their strengths and weaknesses, trying to give every one of them individual help and making fun together, I made new friends. I am thankful for having to have had the possibility of seeing people so thankful for sharing my knowledge with them. After one year of voluntary service I will leave the Dominican Republic end of August. The computer classes definitely have been the most special part of my work here and I really hope that the next volunteer generation will continue with them.

### **Hanna about her trip to Jarabacoa**

Last week some of my friends and I went to Jarabacoa. Jarabacoa is a small village in the south-west of the Dominican Republic. We stayed there for a few days in the Mountainhostel. It was of the last longer trips we did before flying back to Germany on Monday. It was definitely worth it! It was great to have some days off just to enjoy our free time and the beautiful hostel. We did some very cool trips like River Rafting or horse-riding to one of the four large waterfalls in the area.

Since there is a little market located near the hostel we could easily go and buy food for breakfast and dinner to prepare it all together in the kitchen. I really enjoyed my stay there. I recommend this to all the new volunteers! You can also go paragliding and hiking or just relax while watching Netflix and enjoying warm water (which is very special in the D.R.). There are so many opportunities to spend your free time. It was the perfect trip during my last month abroad!



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